

River Scene

SAN MARCOS
We'd love your company.

A Newsletter for City of San Marcos Employees



March/April 2011

Introducing River Scene

By Melissa Millecam,
Communications Director

Short, sweet and—and all about YOU! That's our goal with the re-imagined and redesigned City employee newsletter, River Scene. The newsletter editorial board recently conducted an employee survey, brainstormed and reinvented your newsletter.

The result is the first issue of River Scene as a successor to the 25- year old "Communiqué." We would like River Scene to offer unique stories about the everyday heroes who serve San Marcos. That's you!

You'll see some familiar features, like introductions of new employees, retirements and the City Manager's column.

We will offer some new features, including

"Everyday Heroes" which highlights some of the difficult jobs our employees undertake on a regular basis to keep San Marcos safe, healthy and humming.

Our intrepid reporters will do some field interviews to help us get to know our colleagues in unique new ways. We'll also have some humor, puzzles, recipes and more to keep you turning the pages.

If you have a good idea about a future story—send your ideas to anyone on the editorial board.

Our board includes: Melissa Millecam, editor; Cindy Conyers, Stefanie Daily, Kyle Dicke, Bobette Elliott, Andrew Freeman, Katherine Glaze, Jana Green, Janis Hendrix, Joni Jones, Robert Marin, Denise Molina, Melissa Mulhollan, Stephanie Reyes, Jo Secrest, Karen Smith, Linda Spacek, Tammy Strakos, Kristy Stark, Renate Yanity and Warren Zerr.

Open Enrollment Underway in March

March 1-31 is the Open Enrollment period for City employee benefits, the one time a year that you can make changes to your benefits without needing a qualifying event. Individualized packets were sent March 1 through interoffice mail. Please make sure that you open and read your packet.

All employees are strongly encouraged to attend one of the upcoming sessions to learn about open enrollment options and benefit changes. Please bring your individualized packet with you to the meeting you attend.

All change forms are due in HR by March 31. Most benefit elections will roll forward if you are not making any changes, with the exception of Medical Care Reimbursement Accounts and Dependent Care Reimbursement Accounts. A step-by-step guide is included in your packet to walk you through the process of filling out forms and to know if any are required for your specific situation.



SAFETY HONOREES: Safety coaches Jennifer Ornelas, accounting specialist, and Pam Burleson, Sr. utilities customer service clerk, receive their 2010 Zero Lost Time award from Loss Prevention Manager Cindy Conyers.

Zero Lost Time Injuries in 2010!

By Cindy Conyers, Loss Prevention Manager

The Safety Coaches and employees have worked hard to make the City a safer place to work.

We did it! "Zero Lost Time Injuries in 2010."

Future Emergency Response Training

Assistant Fire Chief Karl Kuhlman, with the help of Safety Coaches, will present Emergency Response Training to all employees to help us be ready for all types of emergencies. Classes are scheduled in various departments during March and April. If you have safety suggestions in your area, please contact your Safety Coach.

Council Adopts Strategic Initiatives

By Jim Nuse, City Manager

In my travels to visit each employee in City departments, I am sharing with staff the five strategic initiatives recently adopted by the City Council. I have hand-written the goals on a very "high tech" poster that goes with me on my visits, as well as when I meet with citizens and community organizations.

Simply put, our goals are:

- Sound Finances
- Customer Friendly Processes
- Big Picture Infrastructure
- Maintain and Protect the San Marcos River
- Community Wellness/ Encourage the Middle Class

The City Council developed these goals at its retreat in January and formally adopted them on March 1. These initiatives will guide the City of San Marcos as we stride forward to plan the next budget, set our priorities and work plans, and evaluate how we are doing throughout the year.

I am so enthusiastic about the high quality of work by our staff. Directors and department leaders have produced excellent planning tools that will communicate our progress on these goals to the City Council and public.

We have developed a strategic calendar that lays out the highest priority activities for the next quarter. Our departments and divisions are sharing a detailed "functional analysis" that takes a close look at what we do, why we do it, and how we might do it better and more efficiently. And we will undergo a quarterly review of our progress at leadership forums with the City Council held in public session.

In these tough budget times, governments at all levels are tightening belts and cutting costs. With your help, we will make sure that the City of San Marcos bases our decisions on a solid foundation.



MATANO PINNED: Jim Matano receives his Battalion Chief badge from his mother, Mary Ann Matano, at the March 5th Fire Department Awards Ceremony. Jim's wife Leonor looks on with pride.



OLSON HONORED: Twenty-five year fire department veteran Rodger Olson receives his Captain badge from wife Karen at the Awards Ceremony.

EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

Congratulations on your promotions!

Sara Bolanos
Accounting Specialist
Finance Department

David Costilla
Engineer
Fire Department

Jim Matano
Fire Battalion Chief
Fire Department

Roger Olson
Fire Captain
Fire Department

Ric-Jason Silguero
Fleet Services Technician
Public Services-Transportation

William Young
Fire Engineer
Fire Department

KUDOS

from Patricia Page, 805 Benning, San Marcos

I was very impressed w/ how the city took our flooding concern seriously and worked so hard to get everything to progress to have it remedied. The staff out here doing the work didn't seem to mind the below freezing temperatures or the wind, but worked right through it all. I am indebted to you. Patricia

WELCOME! *New Employees*



DAVID HILL
Police Officer
Police Department

I will be working as a Police Officer for the City of San Marcos. I began my law enforcement career in 2003 when I attended the San Antonio College Law Enforcement Academy. I've been commissioned since 2004 and have worked as a reserve police officer for the City of Live Oak, and full time for the City of Universal City. I enjoy spending time with my wife and two daughters, road cycling, mountain biking and recreational shooting. I also take additional police training and continuing education classes as often as I can.



JONATHAN LEONARD
Street Equipment Operator I
Public Services-Transportation

I grew up in south Austin and worked for Travis County for 5 years as an equipment operator. I have four children. My hobbies are stock car racing, team roping, and motorcycles. I am currently working for the street department as an equipment operator and enjoying every minute of it. I'm looking forward to learning new things and maybe sharing some of my knowledge with the people here.



AMY OSBORNE
WIC Supervisor/ Nutritionist
Community Services-WIC

Hello! My name is Amy Osborne. I am originally from Texarkana, Arkansas! Whoo! PIG SOOIEE! I moved to College Station, Texas two years ago after completing my degree in Dietetics. I worked for the WIC program in College Station two years before moving to Seguin, Texas. I am not married and do not have any children. I do, however, have two wonderful little Yorkies! My hobbies include painting, dancing, and learning about Nutrition!



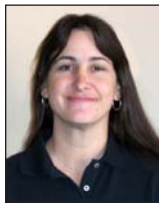
JAMIE LEE PETTIJOHN
City Clerk
City Clerk

Hi, I'm Jamie Lee Pettijohn, and I'm the new City Clerk for the City of San Marcos. I was raised in Gonzales, TX and had the pleasure of working for that great city for a year and a half as both an intern and City Secretary/Zoning Administrator. I have a Bachelors of Public Administration from Texas State and plan on beginning my Master's Program in the fall. I'm currently single and have one child, a five year old beagle named Dixie. Some hobbies I enjoy are dancing, traveling, spending time with family and friends, wakeboarding, and hunting. I'm looking forward to taking up salsa dancing and kayaking this next year. I'm very excited to be working with all the great people within this organization and look forward to being here for as long as City Council sees fit.



FERNANDO VARA
Water/WW Equipment Operator II
Public Services-Water/Wastewater

My name is Fernando Vara. I got hired on to work as an Equipment Operator II. I'm originally from Chicago, IL but have lived in San Marcos for 8 years now. I've been married for 22 years. We have five children, Vanessa (21), Crystal (20), Anita (18), Alberto (9), and Yvette (5). We love living in San Marcos and hope to stay here for a long time.



JENNA WINTERS
Nature Center Coordinator
Community Services-Parks & Recreation

I'm married to Tim Winters (Clinical Therapist at San Marcos Treatment Center) and a mom to Kestrel (6), Chayton (4) and Cooper (2). I'm a graduate of Texas A&M Wildlife and Fisheries Program (BSc and MSc) with a BSc of Education from Bowling Green State University. I'm working on a PhD in Aquatic Resources from Texas State. I'm a former City employee returning to the Nature Center. I have been a City Contractor and PARD volunteer for

the past few years. I left the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to take the coordinator position. If I had any free time, which with 3 small children and 6 dogs, I don't, I like to garden, read, and travel. I've spent a lot of time over the past 8 years studying and working in the San Marcos River and have lived in San Marcos for almost ten years now.



JOSE S. ABREU
Instrumentation & Control Maintenance Technician
Public Services-Water Distribution

I'll be working at the wastewater treatment plant in charge of the instrumentation, control, maintenance, and repair. I'm from San Marcos, but I'm coming from Houma, LA. I am very active, self-driven, results-oriented with a positive outlook and a clear focus on high quality. I'm 28 years old, born and raised in Puerto Rico and moved here when I was 24.



KYLE DYCUS
W/WW Maintenance Equipment Operator I
Public Services-Wastewater Collections

I'm 28 years old, married with one child (boy). I live in New Braunfels and my hobbies are all sports.



CLINTON CARTER
Parking Technician
Police Department

I was born and raised in Kerrville, TX where I grew up hunting and fishing the Guadalupe. I moved to San Marcos to pursue a degree in Environmental Science and my interest in music.

Childcare Storytime: Project of the Year!

By Robin Wood, Librarian

The Central Texas Library System honored the Friends of the San Marcos Public Library with 2011 Project of the Year Award for our Childcare Storytime project. This ongoing project brings a weekly Storytime experience to children in childcare centers across San Marcos.

Each week for 10 years, our Friends of the Library volunteers offer a true library storytime experience in childcare centers all over San Marcos, as well as delivering baskets of 10 specially selected

books. Children eagerly look forward to the visits of our volunteers. Each preschooler has the opportunity to enjoy 700 great picture books a year. This project expands young minds, grows vocabularies, and instills a love of books and libraries.

The program began in 2001 when library staff noticed that fewer and fewer childcare centers were able to schedule trips to the library. At the same time, there was a steady stream of volunteers who wanted to read to children. Friends of the Library supplied the initial funds to buy a special collection of books for childcare Storytime volunteers. This collection made it simple for volunteers to quickly pick up appropriate books to read.

In 10 years, total attendance in the Friends Storytime service has topped 51,000. Volunteers have delivered and read 57,000 books and presented 4,097 first-class storytimes. Children and teachers are delighted, and the Volunteers love a project that is both personally rewarding and important in preparing the community's children for reading success.



LIBRARY PROGRAM HONORED: Participating in a storytime experience are L-R: Beverly Owen, Mateo McVey-Zuniga, Steven Roberson, Susan Smith, Stephanie Langenkamp, Kaycie Halatin and Beth Schott.



"These graphs represent productivity between free-range and cubicled workers."

FAMILY ADDITIONS

By Karen Smith,
Secretary to the City Manager

Stork Report

Laurie Scott, ECO-SMPD, and husband **Charles Scott**, Officer-SMPD are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy. Connor Alan Scott was born February 18 at 4:45 p.m. Connor weighed in at 9 lbs & 20 ½ inches long.



Connor Allen Scott

Deb Tomaselli, Library Clerk and husband Christopher Aylott and big sister Catherine welcome home new baby Emily, born on February 1, 2011. Emily weighed 7lbs and 12oz and was 20 ½ inches long.

Sandra Bolanos, Finance Department Account Specialist, and husband Rolando Bolanos are very excited to announce the birth of their first grandchild. Isabella M. Bolanos was born January 19, 2011 and weighed 8 lbs and 6 oz. Parents are Mathew Bolanos and Mayra Alvarez.

Weddings

Cheryl Pantermuehl, Finance Department Purchasing Manager, is proud to announce that her daughter Stephanie Pantermuehl married Anthony Daniels on February 14, 2011 in a ceremony together with her four-year-old son Sammy and their eight-month-old daughter Anabella in San Antonio, Texas. Cheryl wishes they celebrate new beginnings, new dreams, and most importantly, new love in their marriage.

CELEBRITY SIGHTINGS!

By Denise Molina, Webmaster

In this new feature, Denise interviews staff members with a few choice questions!



David Gaona
Electric Utility

What did you want to be when you were a kid?

A police officer

What do you like most about your job?

Working outdoors and not doing the same thing every day. And restoring power to people when under adverse conditions.

What is the last book you read?

The Bible as much as possible. To thank God for my job and for my salvation.

If you could work in a different department for a day, what dept. would it be? Why?

Police Dept. It has to do with helping people when needed.

If there was a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the lead role as you?

Who other than myself to play my own part.

Cassia Evans
Women Infants & Children



What did you want to be when you were a kid?

Always want to be a Flight Attendant.

What do you like most about your job?

Having the opportunity to help people in need. I love to serve the public and be able to contribute for a better tomorrow.

What is the last book you read?

Purpose driven life – Rick Warren

If you could work in a different department for a day, what dept. would it be? Why?

Police Department ... For me will be a very good experience to know how those "Angels" of the Law work to keep our community Safe.

If there was a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the lead role as you?

No one better ... MYSELF.

John Koenig Fire Dept.

What did you want to be when you were a kid?

My father was a San Antonio Police in the traffic division when I was growing up. I got to spend countless hours riding with him while he was on duty. He retired in 1991 with 31+ years. We spent a lot of time just helping people, whether it was his colleagues or the public, the bonds he formed transcended into my generation today.

I knew from a very early age that I wanted to help people. One day my mother called and informed me that San Marcos was testing for firefighter. I was able to get on and never wanted to anything else.

What do you like most about your job?

At the fire department, we have a unique job that makes a difference in the daily lives of the people. Whether it's an emergency, public education or just shopping at the grocery store, for the most part people are glad to see us. We see so many different types of situations that every time we come to work it's something new. Getting out to talk/help people is very gratifying.

What is the last book you read?

A Cat in the Hat book to my 3 year old little girl. Laugh if you will, but having time between researching fire topics, helping my 10 and 14 year old boys with their homework, it's hard to find time to fish, I mean read for pleasure.

If you could work in a different department for a day, what dept. would it be? Why?

Seems like the questions get harder as this proceeds. What other department?? Hmm. If I had to choose I guess it would be the Public Works department. It seems like a fast paced environment with some heavy equipment. Sounds like fun....

If there was a movie about your life, who would you like to see play the lead role as you?

Well that movie would bomb. BORING!! Sheesh, another tuffy.... How about Karl Kuhlman?? (Thanks Karl!!)



DRIVING ON THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY!

By Denise Molina,
Webmaster

No doubt there are many different ways people get their information these days, so here a few ways to keep up with the City of San Marcos!

If you can't live without your cell phone, sign up for a Twitter account and join the followers (twitter.com/CityofSanMarcos) who receive city instant updates on their cell phones. During a recent power outage when all the City phones and computers were down, we used Twitter on my cell phone to notify the media and more than 1,000 followers of the outage.

If you're always surfing the web, take a minute to look at the city's website: www.sanmarcostx.gov or friend us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityofSanMarcos. Can't remember what was in that last e-mail? No problem, access your work e-mail by going to <http://webmail.sanmarcostx.gov>.

Don't care for all that techy stuff? We got that covered too. Sit back and tune your TV to Time Warner Channel 10 / Grande Channel 16, pick up the local paper or simply pick up the phone and dial 393-8488 (especially during emergency situations).

These avenues are being used on a daily basis to provide city information. In cases of emergencies, a variety of these avenues have proven to be very helpful. We encourage departments to take advantage of these outlets for both daily information and in emergency situations. All information can be updated remotely (with the exception of the TV system).

Weight Watchers @ Work Program Celebrates Another Winning Series!

By Tammy Strakos,
Program Coordinator

Weight Watchers members sponsored a "Tailgate Party" and Open House on January 26 to celebrate their accomplishments and share the program with employees, friends and family members. The City of San Marcos Weight Watchers At Work Session began its new series on February 2 with 40 registered members.

Pound for Pound Giveback

For every pound lost, WW members donate a pound of non-perishable food to the San Marcos Food Bank. Since January, members have donated 1,113 lbs of food used to help those in need in San Marcos and throughout Hays County. Cash donations of \$81 were also contributed, which the Food Bank indicates can be used to purchase approximately 810 lbs of food (\$1 donated to the Food Bank buys about 10 lbs of food)

The Stats:

Session #1 (began in January 2010)
23 Total Members
425 pounds lost

Session #2 (began in June 2010)
42 Total Members
633.3 pounds lost

Session #3 (began in October 2010)
49 Total Members
452.3 pounds lost

Lifetime Members
(achieved goal and maintained for 6 weeks)
15 Lifetime Members

Total Weight Lost To Date
Since January 2010:

1,564.20 pounds



SIGN SHOP CREATIONS: Randy Hollar, Street & Drainage Equipment Operator, puts the finishing touches on one of the newly designed Historic Street signs that are being installed in designated Historic neighborhoods around town.

EVERYDAY HEROES

Deep in the Heart of Texas!

It's hot difficult work—in the Main Lift Station for the City's Wastewater Treatment System, deep underground—deep in the heart of Texas!

Tom Taggart, Director of Public Services, offers his Kudos to the team that recently spent two days in the wet well of the Main Lift Station replacing guide rails damaged by a sulfuric acid spill on the university campus.

Congratulations to team members, including Johnny Carson, Confined Space Entrant; Carlos Briceno and Mike Cordoza, Confined Space Attendants; Russell Hester and Rick Haner, Hoist Operators; Bruce Noel and Samuel Abreu, Attendant; Doug Kupper, Confined Space Supervisor; and Bert Hendrix, Utilities Maintenance Supervisor.

The task was to replace the pump guide rails, 38 feet long, in the Main Lift station. The pump needed to be removed and a workman had to enter the wet well to remove rail and bracket while the station stayed in operation.

A cage is used to hoist the workman into the wet well and to provide a work platform. A backup hoist is also attached in case the main hoist failed. The workman is suited in a protective coverall and uses supplied air to breathe. The wet well is an extremely dangerous place to work, which is why there are safety protocols in place with redundant air supply and hoist equipment. In addition, note the safety cage around the hatch to keep the work attendants safe.

Community Shred Day

Saturday, March 26 • 9 a.m. to Noon
San Marcos City Hall • West Side Parking Lot
Free on-site Shredding!
City Clerk 393.8090

HHW Collection

Saturday, April 2
8 a.m. to Noon
City Traffic Yard
Accepting
outdated
toxic products
& unused
medication
Public
Services
393.8036



INTO THE WELL: L-R, Doug Kupper, Samuel Abreu and Russell Hester prepare to lower Johnny Carson into the wet well of the main lift station.



SAFETY ALWAYS: Carlos Briceno monitors the air supply for the confined space entrant.



CLEARING THE WELL: Samuel Abreu and Carlos Briceno inspect debris on the pump as it is raised.

What to throw away, what to keep

Chances are you're saving more paper than needed. Here's some advice from Consumer Reports on what to save, where to save it and for how long.

Keep these in a safety deposit box:

- Wills, health care proxy and estate planning documents: Give copies to your executor.
- Life insurance policies: Toss only when a term policy expires.
- Vehicle titles: Shred these when you sell the vehicle.
- Savings bonds: Save until maturity, then cash them in.

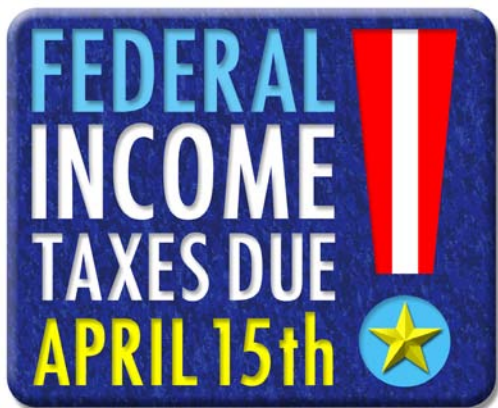
Keep these papers at home:

- Bank deposit slips: Shred after you reconcile your bank statement.
- Bank statements: Save with tax returns if they support deductions.

- Credit-card bill: Can be shredded after you pay the bill. Save any that support tax deductions for seven years.
- Loan documents: Put discharge papers in a safe-deposit box after they are paid off.
- Pay stubs: Shred after you reconcile with your W-2.
- Brokerage, retirement and investment statements: Shred quarterly or as new ones arrive.
- Keep annual statements until you sell the securities.
- Household warranties: Discard when they expire but save parts lists and repair instructions.
- Social Security statements: Shred when you get a new one.
- Tax returns and supporting documents can be discarded after seven years.



Treasury invites taxpayers to get refunds by debit card



The U.S. Treasury wants to quit writing paper checks, while also providing more choices for taxpayers.

Its latest effort consists of a pilot program to deliver tax refunds through prepaid debit cards. About 600,000 taxpayers earning \$35,000 a year or less have received letters inviting them to activate a debit card that can receive direct deposits.

An estimated nine million households, about one in every 12, don't have bank

accounts. By activating the debit card for a tax refund, they wouldn't have to pay a check-cashing fee, and the government would save the cost of producing a check.

Each tax refund check costs the government about \$1, including the cost of processing roughly 600,000 claims each year for missing checks. Payments by direct deposit cost the government about 10 cents.

The pilot program will provide consumers with a debit card that can be used, not just for receiving refunds, but also for shopping with many features of a checking account.

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Neal Wolin, quoted by Bankrate.com, says the debit card "can be used for everyday financial transactions, such as receiving wages by direct deposit, withdrawing cash, making purchases, paying bills and building savings safely, giving users more control over their financial futures."

Half of the 600,000 offers from the Treasury test program will carry a monthly fee of \$4.50. The rest will be free. The different approaches will allow Treasury to determine which is more likely to lead consumers to sign up for the card.



MR. PEABODY'S APPLES: Jim Nuse is surrounded by smiling first graders at Mendez Elementary School during January's Reading Heroes program where many City staff visited classrooms to read to students.

Employee Group: *Working for the Cause!*

By Katherine Glaze, Employee Group

The Employee Group has been hard at work on several projects. We want to thank everyone who purchased the Valentine candy cones. We sold nearly 700! The profit from this fundraiser will be used to purchase door prizes at the City of San Marcos Christmas party.

The Employee Group also joined again with the American Heart Association to support the fight against heart disease. Our City goal was to raise \$500 and we did this through the sale of paper hearts for \$1 each. The hearts were displayed at the Activity Center or in individual departments.

In addition to the sale of the hearts, HR hosted a jewelry sale, earning \$150. Heart Walk 2011 will take place March 26 at Bobcat Stadium. The annual 5K non-competitive walking event is designed to raise awareness of the importance exercise for a healthy lifestyle.

The Employee Group will sell Kudos during Employee Recognition week, the first week in May. Kudos are sweet treats or healthy snacks that we buy for one another to express appreciation for our fellow City employees. The profit from this fund-raiser also will buy door prizes for the Christmas party.

The Employee Group is busy planning community involvement events such as the school supply drive in August, the food drive in November, Blue Santa in December, and we have also talked about a blanket drive. We will schedule a summer or fall event such as a city picnic or a tailgate party -- because the City of San Marcos employees are the best!



HEARTS GALORE: WIC staffers Maiyu Fernandez and Corina Reyna showcase the American Heart Association fundraising hearts purchased in their office.

Employees Participate in Diversity Training

San Marcos City employees are participating in Diversity Training February through April with Dr. Richard Lewis, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio and President of Round Top Consulting Associates.

The goal of the training is to increase our awareness, knowledge and skills about cultural differences to achieve greater cooperation, collaboration and inclusion in our daily work life. All employees are required to take part in the training.

Dr. Lewis's workshop addresses the changing American workplace and appeals to a wide variety of audiences. The 3 ½ hour sessions began in late February and will continue through the end of April. The training covers demographic and cultural changes which impact employees and the evolving City workplace. Diversity includes many dimensions such as age, sex, ability, race and ethnicity.

Managers and directors are asked to call Tina Moreno at 8061 to schedule your employees for a session, limited to 50 participants at a time.

Two daily sessions are scheduled from 8:30-12 noon and 1 – 4:30 p.m. on the following days: March 14 and March 15 (Activity Center) and March 25, April 28 and April 29 (Fire Station #5).

Texas Round-Up 2011

By Cindy Conyers,
Loss Prevention Manager

The City of San Marcos hosted a kick-off luncheon and seminar at the Activity Center to mark its participation in the Texas Round-Up Fitness Challenge on Feb. 15. Some 50 City employees attended the event which included a healthy lunch and a presentation by guest speaker Lisa Lloyd, Ph. D. and Associate Professor and Graduate Advisor for the Exercise and Sports Science Division at Texas State University.

She offered tips and guidelines for living healthier lives and discussed the FREE weight room orientation and group exercise classes that are offered at our Activity Center. Good luck to all those who signed up for the 6-week challenge and Corporate Challenge 2011.

The Texas Round-Up was started in 2004 by Governor Rick Perry to encourage all Texans to adopt and maintain healthy lifestyles through regular exercise and general physical fitness.

APRIL EVENTS WORD SEARCH

M R C E L O P H T R O N U
A A E A R T H Q U A K E J
P T Y E R D N O M A I D A
P I S R T O M M Q A T R W
O U I O E N U A C P S A A
M G A M L A U S E F G G R
A W D U F I S L E B O Y I
T M X H T Q N T O L R C E
T A A Y A I D C E V F O S
O R R T A R S H O R C L T
X A V Q H D B M Y L S U W
B T A L C O H O L U N M I
K H T A X E S T R U M B N
P O E T R Y Z U R D Q I K
N N L I B R A R Y A A A I
N C I N A T I T I A E Y E

ALCOHOL	GARDEN
APPOMATTOX	GUITAR
ARBOR DAY	HUMOR
ARIES	LIBRARY
ASPCA	LINCOLN
AUTISM	MARATHON
CAROUSEL	MATH
COLUMBIA	NORTH POLE
DAISY	POETRY
DIAMOND	TAURUS
EARTH DAY	TAXES
EARTHQUAKE	TITANIC
EASTER	TWINKIE
FROG	VOLUNTEER

You're Invited to CTMC HealthCheck 2011

By Tammy Strakos,
Benefits & Risk Specialist

Central Texas Medical Center will hold its 25th annual HealthCheck health-screening on Thursday, April 28, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in San Marcos.

HealthCheck is a community-wide celebration of health, offering a variety of health screening activities as well as information on wellness, healthy living, disease prevention and general healthcare concerns.

This year CTMC has expanded the blood analysis and will offer a complete metabolic panel, cardiac risk profile and complete blood cell count all for a \$25 fee. You may also request a PSA test (for males) and a thyroid hormone test for an additional \$15 fee each. New to the HealthCheck panel is the A1c test that shows your average blood glucose for up to 3 months. The A1c is offered for a \$10 fee.

City employees may participate in a pre-event blood draw that will begin at 7:15 a.m. on March 23 in the Multipurpose Room at the Activity Center. To schedule a time for your blood draw, call Tammy at 393-8062, no later than March 15. Payment to CTMC is required at the blood draw. If you are covered on the City's health plan, a claim will be filed for you for reimbursement under your wellness benefit. Each covered person has a wellness benefit of \$500 per calendar year.

Fasting 8 – 12 hours before having blood drawn is required. Those employees with diabetes or other medical conditions which may interfere with the ability to fast for this length of time are urged to talk to their physician prior to fasting. Water and black coffee may be consumed during the fasting period.



How to Use Coca Cola as a Stain Remover

By Tammy Strakos,
Benefits & Risk Specialist

Coca-Cola has been touted as a grease stain remover by housewives, house husbands and professional laundry services alike. The tough phosphoric acid eats away at the grease, making your greasy clothes--even hard, baked-on grease or grease from trucks--come out of the wash looking like new.

Instructions

1. Lay several paper towels or dry cloths on a flat surface. Place your grease-stained clothing on top of the towels.
2. Pour some Coca-Cola on a dry cloth or paper towel; rub it into the stain.
3. Holding over a sink, pour some Coca-Cola onto the stain again, completely soaking it. Place it back on the flat surface and let sit for 10 to 15 minutes.
4. Place your stained garments in the washing machine and wash as usual. Dump the rest of the soda into the washing machine before washing the clothes for further grease removal. The detergent will prevent your clothing and the washing machine from becoming sticky. Instead, it will simply wash away all grease stains.

Emilienburg Trades Firefighting for Fishing

By Jana Green, Fire Department Administrative Coordinator



Clayton Emilienburg wants you to know “I’m not quitting, I’m not leaving -- I’m retiring. Firefighter is the only job I would ever recommend to anyone to do.”

Born in Houston, he moved to Kyle, attended Kyle High School, and graduated in a class of 35, one of whom is our own Ronnie LaCaze from SMEU! He was drafted during the Vietnam War, joining “The Few, The Proud, The Marines.” Clayton was encouraged by a group of firefighters who attended his church to test for Firefighter. Among those firefighters was Dan O’Leary. He was hired by the San Marcos Fire Department on July 26, 1984.

His first truck assignment was a ’56 Ford Pumper with the roof cut off and latches (like on a bathroom stall) on the doors. “Back then it wasn’t all that unusual to be the only person assigned to run calls from Station 2.” Truck 1 was the first “modern” truck added to the department. Clayton worked many hours as the department’s apparatus maintenance guru, keeping the fleet on the road. “Driving and Pumping are very personal to me,” Clayton reflects, “this is the thrill of my life – sirens and horns are everything!”

While working as a firefighter, Clayton also served as a Reserve in the San Marcos Police Department’s Mounted Patrol.

Clayton married Shirley Renfro Emilienburg in 2004. He has two children and four grandchildren. With Shirley, he has two stepchildren and they have triplets, which brings the grandchildren total to lucky number seven. His retirement will be filled with fishing, hunting and road trips with those “babies.”

LaCaze Retires from Electric Utility

Ronnie LaCaze, Electric Distribution Manager, retired in January after 42 years in the electric business.

Ronnie began his career in public power in 1969 as a store room helper for the Lower Colorado River Authority’s San Marcos district. He was soon promoted to the Meter Department where he read electric meters, worked trouble calls and power outages and collected overdue accounts. Bluebonnet and Pedernales Electric Cooperatives were also housed out of the San Marcos office and he worked with all three utilities.

In 1981, Ronnie transferred into the Engineering Department where he prepared job orders, worked with contractors and began designing and staking electric lines. He became a City employee in 1991 after the City bought the electric distribution system and transferred the staff. In this department, Ronnie served as an Associate Engineer II, an Electrical Engineering Technician and a Senior Electrical Engineering Technician.

Ronnie’s final career move came in 2009, when he was promoted to Electric Distribution Manager, overseeing the daily operations of the 15 employees on the electric utility line crews.

Ronnie saw the electric system grow from fewer than 2,500 to more than 21,000 customers. Besides witnessing tremendous growth, Ronnie led the utility through floods, tornadoes and ice storms, not to mention countless broken poles, transformer failures and downed power lines.

Ronnie is missed by his co-workers, local contractors and the citizens of San Marcos. In retirement, Ronnie is spending more time with Diane, his wife of nearly 43 years, his three children, seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. Look for Ronnie to be enjoying retirement working his “chicken on a stick” booth at a festival near you!



Ronnie Lacaze stands with a group of former LCRA co-workers - many are current City employees – at his Retirement Celebration on January 20, 2011. L-R, front are: David Kirkwood, Jorge Guerrero, B.J. Peterson, Tim Altenhoff, David Gaona; middle row: Delbert Maywald, Clifford Rust, Joe Gomez, Ronnie LaCaze, Vincent Delgado, Ronnie Hearn, Wayne Latham; back row: Cecil Cowan, J.C. Dunston, Mike Wisian and Blas Mendez.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE 2011

Get Your Game Face On!

By DerryAnn Gonzales,
WIC Manager

Welcome back to Corporate Challenge season! It is that time of year again for City of San Marcos employees to team up against other companies in a variety of events.

I hope the momentum of Weight Watchers and Texas Round-Up will encourage more of you than ever to be active and compete in Corporate Challenge this year! We have several 2010 first and second place titles to defend, and your help is needed! Regular (not seasonal or contract) employees, hired before January 20, working 20+ hours/ week, who have not played professionally, are eligible.

Fees (only applicable for bowling, billiards, darts, and golf), waivers, and registration forms must be submitted to the team captain a week before each event. For complete rules or to register as a team or individual, please contact COSM Team Captain DerryAnn Gonzales (393-8043) dgonzales@sanmarcostx.gov today!



2011 VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS: The winning team for the first 2011 Corporate Challenge event are L-R, front: Esther Carver, Ismael Garcia, DerryAnn Gonzales; back row: Veronica Sobrevilla, Susie Garcia, Vincent Marin, Steve Parker. Not pictured is Richard Robles.

Volleyball 3/6, San Marcos (SM) Activity Center, division 1 @ 8am, division 2 TBA; 3 males/3 females

Kickball 3/27, Gary Complex - old soccer fields, 9am; 5 males/5 females per team

Softball 4/10, San Marcos Softball Complex, 9am; 5 males/5 females per team

Horseshoes 4/17, River Ridge, division 1 @9am, division 2 @2pm; 1 male/1 female per team

Billiards 5/1, Dillinger's, division 1 @11am, division 2 TBA; 1 male/1 female per team

Darts 5/22, SM Activity Center, division 1 @11:30am, division 2 TBA; 1 male/1 female

Golf 6/5, Quail Creek Country Club, 8am; 4 total per team, at least 1 female

Canoe Race 6/26, Rio Vista Dam, division 1 @9am, division 2 @10am; 2 males/2 females

Washers 6/26, SM Activity Center, division 1 @12 noon, division 2 @2pm; 1 male/1 female

